WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sound reproduction apparatus for reproducing audio data consisting of a plurality of frames, said sound reproduction apparatus comprising:

5   an operating section for detecting a key operation for fast forward/reverse and issues an instruction of the fast forward/reverse;

a specified reproduced frame number decoding section for decoding a specified reproduced frame number of frames and for
10   skipping a specified skipped frame number of frames in the audio data during the fast forward/reverse;

a reproduced frame number setting section for providing said specified reproduced frame number decoding section with the specified reproduced frame number for the fast
15   forward/reverse; and

a skipped frame number setting section for providing said specified reproduced frame number decoding section with the specified skipped frame number for the fast forward/reverse.

20 2. The sound reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a rate change decision section for detecting depression duration of a key of said operating section, and for increasing a rate of the fast forward/reverse by varying at least one of the specified reproduced frame number in said reproduced
25   frame number setting section and the specified skipped frame number in said skipped frame number setting section to values that will accelerate the fast forward/reverse.

3. The sound reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,
30   further comprising a sampling frequency detecting section for

detecting a sampling frequency of the audio data in a sync header included in each frame of the audio data, and for varying, when the sampling frequency is changed during the fast forward/reverse, at least one of the specified reproduced frame number and the

5   specified skipped frame number to a predetermined value in response to the sampling frequencies before and after the change of the sampling frequency.

4.   The sound reproduction apparatus according to claim 2,

10   further comprising a variable frame number specifying section for varying the specified reproduced frame number to be set in said reproduced frame number setting section and the specified skipped frame number to be set in said skipped frame number setting section for the fast forward/reverse individually or in

15   combination, when depression duration of a key in said operating section is longer than normal duration to further increase the speed of the fast forward/reverse.

5.   The sound reproduction apparatus according to claim 2,

20   further comprising a sampling frequency detecting section for detecting a sampling frequency of the audio data in a sync header included in each frame of the audio data, and for varying, when the sampling frequency is changed during the fast forward/reverse, at least one of the specified reproduced frame number and the

25   specified skipped frame number to a predetermined value in response to the sampling frequencies before and after the change of the sampling frequency.

6.   The sound reproduction apparatus according to claim 5,

30   further comprising a variable frame number specifying section

for varying the specified reproduced frame number to be set in said reproduced frame number setting section and the specified skipped frame number to be set in said skipped frame number setting section for the fast forward/reverse individually or

5   in combination, when depression duration of a key in said operating section is longer than normal duration to further increase the speed of the fast forward/reverse.

7. A sound reproduction method of reproducing audio data

10 consisting of a plurality of frames, said sound reproduction method comprising the steps of:

detecting a key operation for fast forward/reverse;

decoding a specified reproduced frame number of frames and skipping a specified skipped number of frames; and

15   changing at least one of the specified reproduced frame number and the specified skipped frame number to desired values for the fast forward/reverse.

8. The sound reproduction method according to claim 7, further

20 comprising the steps of:

detecting depression duration of a key for the fast forward/reverse; and

increasing a rate of the fast forward/reverse by varying at least one of the specified reproduced frame number and the

25 specified skipped frame number to a value that will accelerate the fast forward/reverse.

9. The sound reproduction method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

30   detecting a sampling frequency of the audio data in a sync

header included in each frame of the audio data; and

varying, when the sampling frequency is changed during the fast forward/reverse, at least one of the specified reproduced frame number and the specified skipped frame number to a

5   predetermined value in response to the sampling frequencies before and after the change of the sampling frequency.

10.   The sound reproduction method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of varying, when depression duration of a

10   key in an operating section is longer than normal duration in the fast forward/reverse mode, the specified reproduced frame number and the specified skipped frame number individually or in combination to such values that will increase the rate of the fast forward/reverse.

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11.   The sound reproduction method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a sampling frequency of the audio data in a sync header included in each frame of the audio data; and

20   varying, when the sampling frequency is changed during the fast forward/reverse, at least one of the specified reproduced frame number and the specified skipped frame number to a predetermined value in response to the sampling frequencies before and after the change of the sampling frequency.

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12.   The sound reproduction method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of varying, when depression duration of a key in an operating section is longer than normal duration in the fast forward/reverse mode, the specified reproduced frame

30   number and the specified skipped frame number individually or

in combination to such values that will increase the rate of
the fast forward/reverse.